

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a computing device having an executing program, a method comprising:

evaluating a program field that has focus against
5 information indicative of whether the field is configured to receive text input; and

if the field is configured to receive text input:

1) providing a visible user input interface at a displayed location relative to the field;

10 2) receiving handwritten data at the input interface;

3) providing the handwritten data to a recognition engine; and

15 4) returning a recognition result to the program.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the visible user input interface is semi-transparent.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the handwritten data
20 received at the input interface is evaluated to determine whether the handwritten data corresponds to a gesture.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the handwritten data corresponds to a gesture, and further comprising, providing at

least one pen event corresponding to the gesture to the program.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the visible user input interface is semi-transparent, and wherein the gesture comprises user input directed to an area of the program that is visible through the semi-transparent user interface.

10 6. The method of claim 1 wherein providing the handwritten data to a recognition engine is performed in response to detection of a submit button associated with the visible user interface.

15 7. The method of claim 1 wherein providing the handwritten data to a recognition engine is performed in response to a time being achieved.

20 8. The method of claim 1 wherein providing the handwritten data to a recognition engine is performed in response to a gesture being detected.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein evaluating the program field that has focus comprises evaluating at least one window attribute corresponding to the field.

5 10. The method of claim 9 wherein evaluating at least one window attribute corresponding to the field comprises accessing window class information.

10 11. The method of claim 1 further comprising, accessing a database to obtain the information indicative of whether the field is configured to receive text input.

12. The method of claim 1 further comprising, adjusting the appearance of the visible input window.

15 13. The method of claim 12 wherein adjusting the appearance of the visible input window comprises increasing its size to enable entry of additional handwritten data.

20 14. The method of claim 1 further comprising, erasing the visible input window.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the visible input window is erased in response to receiving a close request.

16. The method of claim 14 wherein the visible input window is erased in response to a time being achieved.

5 17. The method of claim 14 wherein the visible input window is erased in response to a gesture being detected.

18. In a computing device having a program, a system comprising:

10 user input interface code;

a field typing engine configured to evaluate a field of the program, determine if that field is supported by the user input interface code, and if so, to communicate information to the user input interface code;

15 the user input interface code drawing a visible input area to indicate that data may be entered therein, the drawing of the visible input area based on the information received from the field typing engine; and

a recognition engine that receives entered data from the
20 user input interface code and converts the entered data to a recognition result that is made available to the program by the user input interface.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein the visible input area is semi-transparent.

20. The system of claim 18, wherein the field typing engine evaluates at least one window attribute corresponding to the field against hard-coded or retrieved information to determine whether the field is supported.

21. The system of claim 18 wherein the entered data comprises handwritten data, and further comprising a gesture detection engine that evaluates the handwritten data to determine whether the handwritten data corresponds to a gesture, and if so, to provide least one event to the program.

22. The system of claim 21 wherein the visible user input interface is semi-transparent, and wherein the gesture comprises user input directed to an area of the program that is visible through the semi-transparent user interface.

23. The system of claim 18 wherein the entered data comprises handwritten data, and further comprising a rulebase that determines an appearance of the visible input area including a displayed size thereof.

24. The system of claim 23 wherein the rulebase increases the displayed size of the visible input area based on handwritten data approaching an end thereof.

5 25. The system of claim 18 wherein the visible input area has at least one button associated therewith for receiving a command.

10 26. The system of claim 25 wherein at least one button comprises a submit button associated with the visible user interface, activation of the submit button commanding the user input interface code to communicate the entered data to the recognition engine.

15 27. The system of claim 18 wherein the user input interface code provides the recognition result to the program in a message queue associated with the program.

20 28. The system of claim 18 wherein the drawing of the visible input area positions the visible input area relative to the field based on the information received from the field typing engine.

29. The system of claim 18 wherein the drawing of the visible input area sizes the visible input area based on the information received from the field typing engine.

5 30. In a computer system having a graphical user interface, a system comprising,

an application program having at least one application input area into which user input data can be entered;

user interface code external to the application program;

10 a typing engine that determines whether to call the user interface code for a selected application input area of the application program based on attribute information associated with that application input area, the user interface code providing a semi-transparent input area based on the attribute
15 information when called;

a timing mechanism configured to cause removal of the semi-transparent input area when no user interaction with the visible input area is detected for a period of time;

20 a gesture engine, the gesture engine invoked to determine whether user input data directed to the semi-transparent input area is a gesture directed to the application program or information that should be recognized as text; and

a handwriting recognition engine, the handwriting recognition engine configured to receive the information that

the gesture engine has decided should be recognized as text,
the handwriting recognition engine responding by returning
recognized text when provided with the information.

5 31. The system of claim 30 wherein the recognized text
is received by the user interface code and made available to
the application program.

10 32. The system of claim 30 wherein the application
program displays the recognized text in the application input
area.

15 33. The system of claim 30 further comprising a growth
rulebase, the growth rulebase determining whether to alter an
appearance of the semi-transparent input area in response to
the information received therein.